What is claimed is:

1. An apparatus for processing image data, comprising:

an image-reading section to read an image on a document;

a network interface to couple said apparatus to a network; and

a rasterizer to rasterize said image data so as to output rasterized image data;

wherein said image data are scanner data acquired by reading said image on said document by means of a scanner included in said image-reading section, or PDL data inputted through said network interface coupled to said network.

2. The apparatus of claim 1, further comprising:

a general-purpose image format converting section to convert said scanner data or said PDL data to data of a same general-purpose image format.

3. The apparatus of claim 2, further comprising:

a data storage section to store said data of said general-purpose image format, converted by said general-purpose image format converting section.

4. A system for processing an image through a network,
comprising:

an image-processing apparatus that includes: an image-
reading section to read an image on a document; a first
network interface to couple said image-processing apparatus
to said network; and a general-purpose image format
converting section to convert scanner data, acquired by
reading said image on said document by means of a scanner
included in said image-reading section, or PDL data, inputted
through said network interface coupled to said network, to
data of a same general-purpose image format; and

an information-processing apparatus that includes: a
second network interface to couple said information-
processing apparatus to said network; and a display section
to display a reproduced image based on said data of said
general-purpose image format.

5. The system of claim 4, further comprising:

an image-printing apparatus that includes: a third
network interface to couple said image-printing apparatus to
said network; and a printing section to print a reproduced

image based on said data of said general-purpose image
format.

6. The system of claim 5, further comprising:

a data-storing apparatus that includes: a fourth
network interface to couple said data-storing apparatus to
said network; and a data storage section to store said data
of said general-purpose image format, converted by said
general-purpose image format converting section included in
said image-processing apparatus.

7. A system for processing an image through a network,
comprising:

a plurality of image-processing apparatuses that are
coupled to said network, and each of which includes a
rasterizer to rasterize image data, representing said image,
so as to output rasterized image data;

an image-printing apparatus that is coupled to said
network, and that includes an image-forming section to form a
reproduced image on a sheet and is coupled to said plurality
of image-processing apparatuses through said network; and

a grouping section to group said plurality of image-processing apparatuses into at least one group including at least one of said plurality of image-processing apparatuses.

8. The system of claim 7,

wherein an image-processing apparatus, being one of said plurality of image-processing apparatuses, includes a group information storing section to store group information including access restricting information, serving as access restriction established between an apparatus included in a group to which said image-processing apparatus belongs and another apparatus included in another group.

9. The system of claim 8,

wherein said access restricting information also serves as access restriction established between an apparatus and another apparatus, both arbitrarily extracted from apparatuses coupled to said network irrespective of groups grouped by said grouping section.

10. The system of claim 7,

wherein said image-printing apparatus includes a group information storing section to store group information

including access restricting information, serving as access

restriction established between an apparatus included in a

group to which said image-printing apparatus belongs and

another apparatus included in another group.

11. The system of claim 10,

wherein said access restricting information also serves

as access restriction established between an apparatus and

another apparatus, both arbitrarily extracted from

apparatuses coupled to said network irrespective of groups

grouped by said grouping section.

12. The system of claim 7, further comprising:

a server that is coupled to said network;

wherein said server includes a group information

storing section to store group information including access

restricting information, serving as access restriction

established between an apparatus included in a group and

another apparatus included in another group, in respect to

every apparatus coupled to said network.

13. The system of claim 12,

       wherein said access restricting information also serves as access restriction established between an apparatus and another apparatus, both arbitrarily extracted from apparatuses coupled to said network irrespective of groups grouped by said grouping section.